



HB 582 HD1

Measure Title:	RELATING TO THE NURSING FACILITY SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM.
Report Title:	Nursing Facility Sustainability Program; Appropriation
Description:	Continues the Nursing Facility Sustainability Program for one additional year. Appropriates funds out of the Nursing Facility Sustainability Program Special Fund for Fiscal Year 2015-2016. (HB582 HD1)
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	HSH/HTH, WAM
Introducer(s):	BELATTI, BROWER, KOBAYASHI, MCKELVEY, San Buenaventura



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII
The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing and
Committee on Health
Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at 1:45 P.M.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol**

**RE: HOUSE BILL 582 HD1 RELATING TO THE NURSING FACILITY
SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM**

Chairs Chun Oakland and Green, Vice Chairs Green and Wakai, and Members of the Committees:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 582 HD1, which continues the Nursing Facility Sustainability Program for one additional year and appropriates funds out of the Nursing Facility Sustainability Program Special Fund for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

This bill helps the state and Hawaii hospitals utilize this program to leverage much needed federal dollars for nursing facilities. A sustainable hospital network and health care industry is vital to the health of our employees, business, and our overall quality of life.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS
C O R P O R A T I O N

"Quality Healthcare For All"

**Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair**

**Senate Committee on Health
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair**

March 17, 2015
Conference Room 016
1:45 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol

**Testimony Supporting House Bill 582, HD1, Relating to the Nursing Facility Sustainability Program
Continues the Nursing Facility Sustainability Program for one year; appropriates funds out of the Nursing Facility Sustainability Program Special Fund for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.**

Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H.
Chief Executive Officer
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Corporate Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of HB 582, HD1, that continues the Nursing Facility Sustainability Program.

Given that health care provider reimbursements are declining at both the federal and state level, it is imperative that health care providers find innovative ways to generate revenues to offset the decline in reimbursements. We believe that the concept of a provider fee on health care items or services provided by nursing facilities is a good financing mechanism that leverages federal funds to increase the reimbursements to nursing facilities from the MedQUEST programs.

As is common in other states that have implemented sustainability fee programs, the public hospitals of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation are being exempted from the nursing facility sustainability program. This is being done to maximize both the amount of federal funds that the private nursing facilities will receive through the nursing facility sustainability fee program and the amount of federal matching funds the public hospitals can receive under the State of Hawaii's Section 1115 waiver. As a matter of public

policy, the public hospitals should be allowed to utilize their certified public expenditures to the maximum extent possible for their exclusive benefit as a means of continuing financing for their operating deficits. In this way, the greatest amount of federal funds may be realized and the private nursing facilities and the public hospitals as a whole will receive greater reimbursements than they are currently receiving.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee. We would respectfully recommend the Committee's support of this measure.



Tuesday, March 17, 2015 – 1:45 p.m.

Conference Room #016

The Joint Senate Committees on Human Services and Housing and Health

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, HSH Committee
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair, HSH Committee

Senator Josh Green, Chair, HTH Committee
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair, HTH Committee

From: George Greene, President & CEO
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

**Re: Testimony in Strong Support
HB582 HD1 — Relating to the Nursing Facility Sustainability Program**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii's 160 member organizations include all of the acute care hospitals in Hawaii, all public and private skilled nursing facilities, all the Medicare-certified home health agencies, all hospices, all assisted living facilities, durable medical equipment suppliers and home infusion/ pharmacies. Members also represent other healthcare providers from throughout the continuum including case management, air and ground ambulance, blood bank, dialysis, and more. In addition to providing quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 20,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of HB582 HD1, which extends the sunset date of the Nursing Facility Sustainability Program to June 30, 2016.

The Legislature created this program three years ago by enacting Act 156, SLH 2012. Recognizing that Medicaid payments were below the actual costs of care, this program increases Medicaid payments to nursing facilities. The program does that by assessing a fee on nursing facilities, using the revenue to obtain matching federal Medicaid funds, and returning a majority of the combined amount directly to nursing facilities. Non-government nursing facilities are assessed an annual fee based on the amount of care they provide. Payment is based on the amount of a nursing facility's Medicaid utilization. As such, the fees and payments are different for every nursing facility.

Nursing facilities constitute a critical element of the health care continuum, and the majority of residents in Hawaii's nursing facilities are Medicaid enrollees. They are the ultimate beneficiaries of this bill, which ensures that they continue to have access to quality care.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB262.



HPCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing

The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

The Hon. Josh Green, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health

The Hon. Josh Green, Chair

The Hon. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Testimony on House Bill 582, HD 1
Relating to the Nursing Facility Sustainability Program
Submitted by Nani Medeiros, Public Affairs and Policy Director
March 17, 2015, 1:45pm, Room 016

The Hawaii Primary Care Association supports HB 582, which makes adjustments to the Nursing Facility Sustainability Program and extends its sunset date to June 30, 2016.

The Legislature created this program two years ago by enacting Act 156, SLH 2012. Recognizing that Medicaid payments were below the actual costs of care, this program increases Medicaid payments to nursing facilities. The program does that by assessing a fee on nursing facilities, using the revenue to obtain matching federal Medicaid funds, and returning a majority of the combined amount directly to nursing facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: Chair Suzanne Chun Oakland
Vice Chair Josh Green
Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing

Chair Josh Green
Vice Chair Glenn Wakai
Senate Committee on Health

From: Paula Yoshioka
Senior Vice President
The Queen's Health Systems

Re: HB 582 HD 1, Relating to the Nursing Facility Sustainability Program
Hearing—March 17, 2015 at 1:45 PM

The Queen's Health Systems would like to express strong support for HB 582 HD 1, a bill relating to the Nursing. This bill would reauthorize the Nursing Facility Sustainability Program for an additional year.

The Nursing Facility Sustainability Program issues a fee on nursing facilities in the state. The revenue generated by this fee is used to draw down matching federal funds. Nursing facilities, in turn, receive an increased reimbursement rates from the state based on the number of Medicaid patients they serve.

Nursing facilities in Hawaii are an integral part of the continuum of care that our community relies on. Extending this program for another year will help to ensure that our most underserved families have access to needed care.

We ask that you support the continuation of the Nursing Facility Sustainability Program. Your favorable vote on this bill will allow collaborative efforts between the Hawaii Department of Human Services, the Healthcare Association of Hawaii and nursing facilities to ensure access to safety net services for residents across the state to continue.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.